

PATENT

Serial No. 09/653,782

Amendment in Reply to Office Action of July 19, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4 and 8 as follows:

- 1           1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a receiver,  
2    comprising:  
3           (a) energizing the receiver,  
4           (b) detecting the presence of a carrier signal,  
5           (c) de-energising the receiver if the carrier signal is not  
6    detected,  
7           (d) maintaining the energisation of the ~~reciever~~ receiver if  
8    the carrier signal is detected,  
9           (e) demodulating the detected carrier signal,  
10          (f) assessing the quality of the demodulated signal,  
11          (g) de-energising the receiver if the quality of the  
12    demodulated signal is not acceptable, and  
13          (h) decoding the demodulated signal if the signal quality is  
14    acceptable.
- 1           2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized by  
2    measuring the received signal strength indication (RSSI) as a means  
3    for detecting the presence of the carrier signal.

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1           3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1,  
2     characterized by measuring signal quality as a measure for  
3     determining if a signal is decodable.

1           4. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising a  
2     primary station having a transmitter for transmitting a signal and  
3     at least one secondary station having a receiver for receiving  
4     signals from the primary station, the receiver comprising signal  
5     receiving means, means for detecting the presence of a received  
6     signal, means for detecting the quality of the received signal and  
7     power control means for de-energising the receiver ~~if the presence~~  
8     ~~of a signal is not detected or if the presence of the signal is~~  
9     detected and the detected signal is not decodable.

1           5. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in  
2     that means for determining the received signal strength indication  
3     (RSSI) is coupled to the signal receiving means.

Claims 6-7 (Cancelled)

1           8. (Currently Amended). A battery-powered radio, comprising:

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2 a receiver circuit, the receiver circuit operable to produce a  
3 received signal from a channel;

4 a received signal strength indicator circuit coupled to the  
5 receiver circuit, the received signal strength indicator circuit  
6 operable to produce an output indicating an amount of power in the  
7 channel;

8 a demodulator circuit coupled to the receiver circuit, the  
9 demodulator operable to produce a demodulated signal from the  
10 received signal;

11 a signal quality indicator circuit coupled to the demodulator  
12 circuit;

13 a decoder circuit coupled to the demodulator circuit; and

14 a microprocessor coupled to the receiver, the received signal  
15 strength indicator circuit, the signal quality indicator circuit  
16 and the decoder circuit;

17 wherein the microprocessor is operable to energize and de-  
18 energize the receiver circuit; determine the presence of a carrier  
19 with a carrier detect false rate, based, at least in part, on the  
20 power in the channel, and to determine ~~and an~~ acceptable signal  
21 quality with a signal quality false rate, based, at least in part,  
22 on an output of the signal quality indicator circuit;

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23            wherein the microprocessor is operable to energize the  
24 receiver circuit for a first period of time, and, if the carrier is  
25 determined to be present, to then maintain the receiver in the  
26 energized state until a determination is made as to whether  
27 acceptable signal quality has been obtained, and to de-energise the  
28 receiver if the carrier is determined to be present and the signal  
29 quality is not acceptable.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

1            10. (Previously Presented) The battery-powered radio of Claim  
2 8, wherein the microprocessor is operable to de-energize the  
3 receiver circuit if the carrier is determined to not be present,  
4 without performing a signal quality determination.

1            11. (Previously Presented) The battery-powered radio of Claim  
2 10, further comprising:  
3            a metering unit coupled to the microprocessor;  
4            an encoder circuit coupled to the microprocessor; and  
5            a radio transmitter circuit coupled to the encoder circuit.